

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus used for a hydraulic clutch operation system which has a hydraulic circuit comprising:

a housing which has a dampening chamber interposed in the hydraulic circuit;

a dampening assembly accommodated in the housing, said dampening assembly including:

a working unit having a vibration dampening member substantially adjacent the dampening chamber for alleviating pulsations generated in hydraulic fluid in the dampening chamber and a circular fulcrum at an outer periphery of the vibration dampening member and on a side of the vibration dampening member opposite the dampening chamber so that portions of the vibration dampening member inward of the outer periphery can deform into areas inward of the circular fulcrum, and

an elastic retainer on a side of the working unit opposite the dampening chamber, the elastic retainer being elastically preloaded from its free state to retain the working unit in the housing; and

a force conversion mechanism which converts a spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state to urge the circular fulcrum of the working unit elastically against the vibration dampening member and towards the dampening chamber.

2. (original) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic retainer is a C shaped retaining ring mounted in an annular groove formed in the housing.

3. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said cam surface of the force conversion mechanism is formed only on the groove in the housing.

4. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said C shaped retaining ring and the groove of the housing have respectively the cam surfaces which abut with each other in assemble condition.

5. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said C shaped retaining ring has slopes chamfered on both outer peripheral sides.

6. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said dampening assembly includes a cover between the fulcrum and the elastic retainer.

Claim 7 (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said working unit includes a seal member which elastically adhesively

seals the dampening chamber to prevent the hydraulic fluid from leaking from the dampening chamber.

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A pulsation dampening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said working unit includes a cover member disposed between the fulcrum member and the elastic retainer so that the urging force of the elastic retainer is transmitted to the fulcrum ring.

11. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder used for a hydraulic clutch operation system which has a hydraulic circuit comprising:

a cylinder body having a pressure chamber interposed in the hydraulic circuit; and

a pulsation dampening apparatus, said pulsation dampening apparatus including:

a housing integrally formed with the cylinder body, said housing having a dampening chamber interconnected with the pressure chamber;

a working unit having a vibration dampening member substantially adjacent the dampening chamber for absorbing pulsations generated in hydraulic fluid in the dampening chamber and a circular fulcrum at an outer periphery with the vibration dampening member and on a side of the vibration dampening member opposite the dampening chamber so that portions of the vibration dampening member inward of the outer periphery can deform into areas inward of the circular fulcrum, and

an elastic retainer on a side of the working unit opposite the dampening chamber, the elastic retainer being elastically preloaded so disposed as to be elastically from its free state to retain the working unit in the housing; and

a force conversion mechanism which converts a spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state to urge the circular fulcrum of the working unit elastically against the vibration dampening member and towards the dampening chamber.

12. (original) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 11, wherein said elastic retainer is a C shaped retaining ring mounted in an annular groove formed in the housing.

13. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 12, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said cam surface of the force conversion mechanism is formed only on the groove in the housing.

14. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 12, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said C shaped retaining ring and the groove of the housing have respectively the cam surfaces which abut with each other in assemble condition.

15. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 12, wherein said force conversion mechanism has a cam surface by which the spring-back force of the elastic retainer in said preloaded state is converted to the force acting for

urging the working unit towards the dampening chamber, said C shaped retaining ring has slopes chamfered on both outer peripheral sides.

16. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 11, wherein said dampening assembly includes a cover between the fulcrum and the elastic retainer.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 11, wherein said working unit includes a seal member which elastically adhesively seals the dampening chamber to prevent the hydraulic fluid from leaking from the dampening chamber.

Claim 19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) A clutch master cylinder according to claim 11, wherein said working unit includes a cover member disposed between the fulcrum member and the elastic retainer so that the urging force of the elastic retainer is transmitted to the fulcrum ring.